ARTICLES

OF

Visitation and Enquiry

Concerning MATTERS

Ecclesiastical:

EXHIBITED

To the Ministers, Church-Wardens, and Side-men of every Parish within the

DIOCESS of *CHICHESTER.*

In the first EPISCOPAL VISITATION

OF THE

Right Reverend Father in God

HENRY

By Divine Providence

Lord Bishop of ***CHICHESTER.***

LONDON,

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The Tenor of the Oath to be Administred to the Church-wardens, and Sidemen, of every Pariſh.

YOu ſhall Swear to enquire with your beſt diligence, and to make a true Anſwer unto every Article in this Book now given you in Charge; and to Preſent every Perſon that now is, or of late was, inhabiting within your Pariſh, that hath done any Offence, or omitted any Duty, therein mentioned. And this you ſhall do, as in the ſight of God, uprightly and truly, without Favour or Malice, Hope of Reward, or fear of Diſpleaſure. *So help you God.*

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ARTICLES
OF
Visitation and Enquiry
Within the
DIOCESS of *CHICHESTER.*

Titul. I.

Concerning Churches and Chapels, with the Ornaments and Furniture thereunto belonging.

I. IS your Parish Church or Chapel kept in good and sufficient repair? Are the Roofs thereof well covered with Lead, Tile or Slate; the Windows well Glazed, the Floors well Paved, the Seats well fastned, and conventently placed; and all things so decently ordered, as becometh the House of God?

II. HATH the Steeple or Tower of your Church or Chapel, or any part thereof, been pulled down, or any of the Lead or Bells formerly belonging thereunto, been imbezelled, sold or made away? In whose hands or Custody

stody doth the same, or any part thereof remain? Declare what you know, or have heard therein.

III. IS there a Font of Stone, with a good Cover thereunto, standing in a convenient place towards the lower part of your Church, for the Administration of Baptism? And is there in your Chancel, a decent Communion Table, for the Administration of the Lords Supper; with a Carpet of Silk, Stuff, or fine Woollen cloth, and another Covering of white and pure Linnen, to spread thereupon? And have you a fair Communion-Cup, or Chalice, with a Cover of silver, and one or more Flaggons of silver, or pewter, thereunto belonging?

IV. HAVE you in your said Church, or Chapel, a convenient Seat, or Pew, for your Minister to read Divine Service in? A Pulpit, with a comely Cloth or Cushion for the same? A Bible, of the last Translation, in a large Volume, and the Book of Common-Prayer; both well and substantially bound? Have you likewise the Book of Homilies, set forth by Authority? A Book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical? The Forms of Divine Service for the fifth of November, The thirtieth of January, and the nine and twentieth of May? And a Printed Table of the Degrees wherein Marriage is prohibited?

V. HAVE you a comely large Surplice for the Minister to wear at all times of his Publick Ministration in the Church; provided, and to be duly washed at the Charge of the Parish?

VI. HAVE you a Register Book of Parchment, wherein to Register the Names and Surnames of all such persons as are Married, Christned, or Buried, within your Parish? together with the Names and Surnames of both the Parents of the Children so Christned, expressing the day, moneth, and year of all such Christenings, Marriages, and Burials? And is the transcript thereof yearly, within one Moneth next after the 25. of March, brought into the Bishops Registry?

VII. HAVE

VII. HAVE you likewise another Book of Paper, wherein to record the Names and Licences of all such Strangers as are admitted at any time to Preach in your Church or Chapel? As also a third Book wherein to write down the Church-wardens Accounts: together with a strong Chest with Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the aforesaid Books, and all other the aforementioned Furniture in safe Custody? And lastly, have you a Bier, with a black Pearl-cloth, for the Burial of the Dead?

TIT. II.

Concerning the Church-yard, the Houses, Glebes, and Tithes, belonging to the Church.

I. IS your Church-yard sufficiently fenced with Walls, Rails, or Pales; and decently kept from the annoyance of Swine, Horses, and other Cattel? Hath any person encroached upon the same? or made any door into it, out of his own ground or habitation, without allowance from the Ordinary? Have any Trees there growing been cut down? how long since? by whom? and to whose use and benefit?

II. IS the House of your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, (with all the Out-houses thereunto belonging) kept in good and sufficient repair? Or, have any of the said Houses, or Out-houses, been defaced or pulled down without licence from the Ordinary? and by whom? Hath any person encroached upon any Garden, Yard, or Close, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage house? or cut up any Trees growing thereon? or changed or removed the antient Marks and Bounds of the same?

III. HAVE you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, or Cottages, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage? As

also a note of such Pensions, Rate-tithes, and Portions of Tithes, or other yearly Profits, (either within or without your Parish) as belong thereunto? Have any of the same been withheld from your Minister? and by whom; as you know or have heard?

IV. HAVE any of the Antient Glebe-lands belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage, been taken away or exchanged for other, without the free consent of the Incumbent, and licence from the Ordinary? Have any Inclosures been made in your Parish, to the detriment of the Church, by the decay of Tillage, and converting Arable-Land into Pasture? by whom hath the same been made? and how many years since? and how much is your Parsonage or Vicarage damnified thereby in the yearly value thereof; as you know, believe, or have heard?

Tit. III.

Concerning Ministers.

I. IS your Minister a Priest or Deacon, Episcopally Ordained, according to the Laws of the Church of England?

II. IS he defamed or suspected to have obtained either his Benefice or Orders, by any Simoniacal compact?

III. HATH he been legally Instituted and Inducted into his Benefice? and did he within two moneths after his Induction, publickly in the Church, upon some Sunday or Holy-day, in the time of Divine Service, read the 39 Articles of the Church of England, established by Authority, and there publickly declare his assent thereunto?

IV. HATH he any other Ecclesiastical Benefice, Prebend, or Dignity? Is he constantly resident upon his Benefice amongst you? How many weeks in any one

one year hath he been abſent from it, without urgent neceſſity?

V. HATH your Miniſter a Curate to aſſiſt him? Is the ſaid Curate in Holy Orders? an able and diſcreet perſon, and conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church of England? Is he allowed by the Biſhop to ſerve in your Church or Chapel? and doth he ſerve in any other Church beſide? and what yearly ſtipend doth your Miniſter allow him?

VI. DOTH your Parſon, Vicar, or Curate, in reading the daily Morning and Evening Service, Adminiſtration of the holy Sacraments, Celebration of Marriage, Churching of Women after Child-birth, Viſitation of the Sick, Burial of the Dead, and pronouncing Gods Condemnation againſt impenitent Sinners, uſe the form and words preſcribed in the Book of Common-Prayer, without any addition, omiſſion, or alteration of the ſame? And doth he uſe all ſuch rites and Ceremonies in all parts of Divine Service, as are appointed in the ſaid Book?

VII. DOTH your Miniſter at the Reading or Celebrating any Divine Office in your Church or Chapel, wear the Surplice, together with ſuch other Scholaſtical Habit as is ſuitable to his Degree?

VIII. DOTH he obſerve the Holy-dayes and Faſting-dayes, as alſo the Ember-weeks, and the yearly Perambulation in Rogation-week, as in the Common-Prayer-book, or by the Eccleſiaſtical Canons, is appointed? giving notice to the Pariſhioners of every of the ſame in the Church, in the time of Divine Service upon the Sunday next before?

IX. HATH your Miniſter been licenced to preach by the Biſhop, or either of the two Univerſities? If ſo; Doth he then conſtantly (unleſs in caſe of Sickneſs, neceſſary abſence, or other reaſonable impediment) himſelf preach

in

in your Church or Chapel, one Sermon every Sunday: Or if he be not a Licensed Preacher, or being so Licensed be hindred by Sickness, or otherwise, as aforesaid; doth he procure a Sermon to be so preached by some other Minister, a Licensed Preacher: or one of the Homilies set forth by Authority to be there read by a Priest or Deacon lawfully Ordained:

X. DOTH your Minister diligently instruct the youth of your Parish, in the Church Catechism: and doth he prepare and present them, being so instructed, to be Confirmed by the Bishop: And doth he endeavour to reclaim all Popish Recusants and other Sectaries, (if any such be inhabiting within your Parish) to the true Religion established in the Church of England, and to their bounden duty in obeying the Laws, and submitting to the Government thereof:

XI. DOTH he neglect to visit the Sick, or delay the Baptism of any Infant that is in danger of death: Is there any Child past Infancy, or other person of more years, through your Ministers default, yet remaining unbaptized in your Parish: Doth he baptize any without God-fathers and God-mothers, or admit either of the Parents to be God-father or God-mother to their own Children:

XII. DOTH he in his Sermons preach sound Doctrine, tending to the edification of the people in the knowledge and faith of Jesus Christ, and obedience to Gods holy Commandements: or hath he at any time (as you know or have heard) preached any False, Heretical, Seditious, or Schismatical Doctrine, thereby to seduce the people into parties and factions, to the disturbance of the publick peace and unity either of Church or State:

XIII. HATH he presumed to Marry any persons in private houses: or such as, being under age, have not the consent of their Parents, or without the Banes first published on three Sundays or Holy-days in the Church:

or

or at any other hours than between Eight and Twelve in the Morning; unless he had a License or Dispensation so to do?

XIV. DOTH any person preach in your Parish as a Lecturer? Hath he allowance from the Bishop for so doing? Doth he before his Lecture, read Divine Service, according to the Book of Common-Prayer? and is he in all respects conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church of England?

XV. Hath your Minister taken upon him to appoint any publick or private Fasts, Prophecyings or Exercises, not appointed by Authority? or doth he, or any other, either Minister or Lay-person, hold any Conventicles or Meetings in private houses within your Parish for people of several Families to resort unto, under the pretense of Preaching, Praying, Thanksgiving or Humiliation, contrary to the Laws and Canons in that case provided?

XVI. IS your Parson, Vicar, Curate or Lecturer, a man of a sober, unblameable, and exemplary life? Doth he familiarly converse with ungodly, vicious, and excommunicate persons? Is he a frequenter of Taverns, or Ale-houses? a common Gamester? a prophane or obscene Jester? a Swearer, Railer, Scoffer, or Quarreller? Doth he set Neighbours at variance one with another? or encourage them to Suits and Contention? Is he noted to be an intemperate Drinker? or vehemently suspected of Incontinency with any person, either within your Parish, or without? Doth he wear his hair of an immoderate or uncomely length? Is his apparel grave and decent, both for fashion and colour, as the Canons of the Church require? Or is his Carriage and Conversation, in any kind whatsoever, Disorderly or Scandalous, and unbeseeming a Minister of Jesus Christ?

Tit. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners.

I. IS there in your Parish any person a known or reputed Heretick or Schismatick? any Papist, Familist, Anabaptist, Quaker or other Sectary that refuse to come unto the publick Assemblies, Prayers or Services of the Church, or that make profession of any other Religion than what is established in the Church of England? and if there be any such, what are their Names?

II. IS there any person in your Parish, that lyeth under a common fame, or vehement suspicion of Adultery, Fornication or Incest? Are there any common Drunkards within your Parish, or common Swearers, or Blasphemers of Gods name, or any that are noted to be Railers, unclean or filthy talkers, or sowers of Sedition, Faction, and Discord amongst their Neighbours?

III. DO any of your Parish upon the Sundays or Holydayes, follow their bodily and ordinary labour? or permit their servants so to do? are any Shops kept open or wares sold? or doe any Vintners, Inn-keepers, or other Victuallers and sellers of Beer or Ale, suffer any persons to tipple or game in their houses upon those dayes?

IV. DOTH every Person inhabiting or sojourning within your Parish, duely resort unto your Church or Chapel, upon every Sunday and Holyday appointed for Divine service? Do they then and there abide quietly with reverence, order and decency, during all the whole time of Common-prayer, Preaching, or other service of God there used? and are there any among you that come only to the Preaching, and not to the Common-prayers of the Church?

V. DOTH every person reverently uncover his head, and so continue all the time of Divine Service and Sermon

mon in the Church? Do they all reverently kneel at the Prayers, and ſtand up when the Creed and Goſpel are read, making due reverence when the name of our Lord Jeſus is mentioned?

VI. ARE there any in your Pariſh that refuſe to ſend their Infant-children to be Baptized publickly in the Church, unleſs in caſe of urgent danger, in which caſe, the child may be baptized at home by a lawfull Miniſter, after the form and rites appointed in the Liturgy? Or do they ſend them to be baptized in any other Pariſhes, or after other form than is appointed? Or do they keep them unbaptized any longer time than the Church alloweth? And are there any Infants or more aged perſons in your Pariſh as yet unbaptized?

VII. DOTH every Houſholder in your Pariſh cauſe their Children and Servants to learn their Catechiſm, and to give an account thereof unto your Miniſter, as he ſhall require it of them openly in the Church upon Sundayes and Holydayes, as in the Book of Common-Prayer is appointed: that when they are well inſtructed in the ſame, they may be Confirmed by the Biſhop?

VIII. IS there any perſon in your Pariſh who being 16. years of age, and well inſtructed in Religion, doth not receive the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, at leaſt three times in the year, of which Eaſter is alwayes to be one? Doth any in your Pariſh refuſe to receive the ſame kneeling, or from the hands of your own Miniſter, repairing for it to other Pariſhes and Miniſters abroad? Or are there any ſtrangers not of your Pariſh, that forſake their own Churches, and uſually repair to yours for it?

IX. HAVE you any among you that be denounced and declared excommunicate for any crime committed? How long have they been ſo excommunicated? And do any of your Pariſh keep ſociety with them before they be reconciled to the Church, and abſolved?

X. ARE there any living in your Pariſh who have

been unlawfully married contrary to the Laws of God? Or any that being lawfully divorced have maried again? Or any that being lawfully married, and not separated or divorced by course of Law, do not cohabit together?

XI. ARE there any married-women in your Parish, who after their Delivery from the peril of Child-birth, refuse to make their publick Thanksgiving to God in the Church? And when they come so to do, do they come decently apparrelled, and make their offerings according to custome?

XII. ARE there any belonging to your Parish, who refuse to pay their Duty for Easter Offerings to your Minister? Or any that refuse to contribute, and pay the rate assessed upon them, for the repair of your Church or Chapel, and for the providing of such books, furniture and ornaments, as be requisite for the performance of all Divine offices there?

XIII. DO any refuse to Bury their Dead according to the Rites of the Church of England? And are there any Wils or Testaments, of persons dead in your Parish, that be yet unproved? Or any goods Administred, without a due grant from the Ordinary? Did any dying in your Parish or else where, leave any Legacy to your Church or Chapel, or to the use of the Poor, or to any other pious and charitable purposes? What were those Legacies, and how have they been bestowed?

XIV. DO you know, or have you heard, of any Patron or other person in your Parish, having the presentation or gift of any Ecclesiastical benefice, who hath made gain thereof by presenting a Clerk or Minister to it upon any bargain, either for money or pension, or lease, reserve of Tithes or Glebe, or any part thereof, or upon other Simoniacal compact whatsoever?

XV. IS there any strife and contention among any of your Parish for their Pews or Seats in your Church? Have any new Pews been Erected in your Chancel, or in the Body

Body of your Church or Chapel without leave from the Ordinary?

Tit. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks, and Sextons.

I. HAVE you belonging to your Church or Chapelry a Parish Clerk, aged 21. years at the least? Is he of honest life and Conversation? and sufficient or able to perform his duty in Reading, Writing, and Singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, and doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? Are his wages duly paid unto him? or who withholdeth the same from him?

II. DOTH he or your Sexton (if there be any such appointed in your Parish) diligently look to the doores of your Church, that they be locked and opened at due time? And doth he keep your Church or Chapel clean from dust, cobwebs, and other annoyance? Doth he toll or Ring the Bels at the due accustomed hours before the beginning of Divine Service, Morning and Evening, that the people may be warned to come unto the Church? And when any person is passing out of this life, doth he upon notice given him thereof, toll a Bell, as hath been accustomed, that the Neighbours may thereby be warned to recommend the Dying person to the Grace and Favour of God?

Tit. VI.

Concerning Hospitals, Schools, School-masters, Physicians, Chirurgeons, and Midwives.

I. IS there any Hospital, Almes-house, or Free-School founded in your Parish? Who was the Founder, or

is now the Patron thereof? And what is the yearly Revenue, or Stipend, belonging to the Governours, or Masters, of the same? Is the same ordered and governed in every respect as it ought to be? and are the Revenues thereof rightly employed, according to the intention of the Founder, and of such grants and ordinances as have been made concerning the same?

II. DOTH any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish, who is not allowed thereunto by the Bishop or his Chancellor? Doth your School-master teach his Scholars the Catechism of Religion, set forth by Authority? Doth he cause them upon Sundaies and Holydayes, orderly to repair to your Church or Chapel? and see that they behave themselves there quietly and Reverently, during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

III. DOTH any man in your Parish, practise Physick, or Chirurgery, or any Woman take upon her to exercise the Office of Midwife, without Approbation and License from the Ordinary?

TIT. VII.

Concerning Church-wardens and Side-men.

I. ARE the Church-wardens of your Parish yearly and duely chosen by the joynt Consent of your Minister and Parishioners; or one of them by your Minister, and the other by the Parishioners?

II. HAVE the former and last Church-wardens given up their due Accompts to the Parish, and delivered up to the succeeding Church-wardens the Monyes remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chapel?

III. DO you the Church-wardens and Side-men take diligent care, and see who of your Parishioners be absent from

from the Divine Service and Sermon in your Church or Chapel, upon Sundayes and Holydayes? And if you find any to have abſented themſelves without a ſufficient cauſe, do you by Warrant from ſome of the Juſtices of Peace, levy of them, by way of diſtreſs upon their Goods, the ſum of 12 pence for every ſuch day of their abſence, according to the Act of Parliament in that caſe provided: And do you diſtribute the ſeveral ſums ſo levied, among the poor of your Pariſh, according to the Law?

IV. DO you note them that come late to Church after Divine Service is begun, or depart before it be ended? Do you ſuffer none to ſtand idle or talk together in the Church-Porch, or to walk in the Church, or Church-yard, during the time of Prayers, Preaching, or other Sacred Offices?

V. DO you ſuffer no Miſ-behaviour or diſorder to be done by Men, Women, or Servants, or Children in your Church or Chapel? Are you carefull that none of them ſit, lean, or lay their Hats upon the Communion-Table? Do you permit no Minſtrels, no Morris-dancers, no Doggs, Hawks, or Hounds to be brought or come into your Church, to the diſturbance of the Congregation?

VI. DO you againſt every Communion appointed in your Church or Chapel, provide a ſufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good Wine, according to the number of Communicants?

VII. DO you cauſe all ſtrangers that Preach in your Church or Chapel, to ſubſcribe their Names the ſame day in a Book provided for that purpoſe, together with the Name of the Biſhop that Licenſed them to Preach in this Dioceſs? and do you permit no other to Preach?

VIII. HAVE you (the Church-wardens and Side-men) now ſworn to give in a true anſwer unto all theſe Artticles of Inquiry in all their ſeveral Titles, taken ſufficient time to draw up your preſentments, and therein conſulted with your Miniſter for his faithfull Aſſiſtance?

FOR

FOR know you assuredly, that as the [illegible] of your Office is the Chief means whereby publick Disorders, Sins, and Offences in your Parish may be reformed and punished: So if you wilfully refuse to present such Crimes and Faults as either you know to have been committed, or otherwise have heard of by publick fame; That in such cases, the Bishop and his Officers are to proceed against you, in their Ecclesiastical Courts, as in Cases of wilful Omission and Perjury.

HENRY CHICHISTER.

THE Ministers of every Parish are desired to give in the Names of such of the Younger sort, in their several Parishes, as they judge fit to receive Confirmation from the Bishop, and to present them to be Confirmed: Especially such as having Competently learned their Catechism, have not yet received the Holy Communion.

FINIS.